



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 21, 2004

**FEDERAL JUDGE IN SAN ANTONIO SENTENCES ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL
TO 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT IN PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS CASE**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 29-year-old Frank Zuniga Ramirez of San Antonio, Texas, was sentenced today to 180 months in federal prison for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

In addition to the prison term, U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia., ordered Ramirez to be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing his prison term.

On March 4, 2004, Ramirez pled guilty to a federal indictment charging him with being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm. In January of this year, a San Antonio Police Department Officer discovered during a traffic stop that Ramirez had three outstanding warrants. After searching the vehicle, a loaded handgun was found and the defendant admitted to the officer that it belonged to him. He told the officer that he had purchased the handgun from another gang member for protection from rival gang members. Rameriz has a previous Burglary conviction and has twice been convicted of Aggravated Robbery.

"Today's sentence should send a chilling message to criminals who possess firearms in Texas," said United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. "You will be prosecuted and punished. Simply for possessing a firearm and being a felon, Mr. Ramirez will spend the next 15 years in prison."

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives together with the San Antonio Police Department. Special Assistant United States Attorney Gerald Matheny prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is carrying out the Department of Justice's gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement to target criminals in possession of guns. Federal law insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences.

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